

From: [Holmes, Michael P](#)
To: [Maher, Jim](#); [Strong, Greg](#)
Cc: [Simpson, Russell](#); [Johnson, John S.](#); [Kennedy, Gracie](#); [Fellabaum, Pamela](#); [Kershner, Matthew](#); [Mitchell, Cheryl L](#)
Subject: RE: FW: Putnam County Chemical Fire
Date: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 12:40:02 PM
Attachments: [Photo 1.jpg](#)
[Photo 2.jpg](#)
[Photo 3.png](#)

Hey Matt,

Does this sound like too much?

Just need a second opinion.

Thanks

Good Afternoon Jim and Greg,

The only chemical believed to be released at this time was Napthalene from one 55 gallon drum. However that is unclear at this time due to the drum not being marked. The incident commander stated that the drum had been knocked over but was quickly uprighted and not much released from it. The testing of the wastewater should help shed some light on what may have released.

In response to Mr. Clayton's email, I immediately met with the Incident Commander when I arrived on-site where I was informed about the nitrogen tank. I did not have visible evidence of the tank as most of the area impacted was unsafe and the fire did an excellent job of erasing markings. The fire was mostly out at that time. A preplan of the facility was available and had most of the chemicals from my initial summarization. Sodium Hydroxide, Hydrochloric Acid, Chloroform, Paraformaldehyde, and Trichloromethane are All on the preplan. I have attached a photo (Photo #1) of the preplan for reference. The remaining chemicals from my summary that were not listed were mentioned to me by the incident commander during our initial meeting.

The tanks mentioned were compromised, please see above photo #2 for reference. A hole melted in the side of the tank in the photo is visibly evident. Luckily, both the Incident Commander and Mr. Clayton believe it held water.

The email thread below mentions no Hydrochloric Acid was on-site, however one of the tanks near the melted water tank in Photo #3 has Hydrochloric Acid written on it.

Based on the information given to me during the incident by the incident command team, the preplan, and from visual confirmation, I moved forward as best as I could. If none of these chemicals are on-site, then the preplan should have been updated.

The RP was reluctant at first but he eventually hired Alpha-Omega. After speaking with Alpha-Omega today, they stated they are no longer working for the RP and the RP is having a consultant perform the sampling.

Once the sampling of the site is complete, they will submit a report to DEP.

Michael Holmes
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From: Maher, Jim
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 9:54 AM
To: Holmes, Michael P <Michael.P.Holmes@FloridaDEP.gov>
Cc: Kershner, Matthew <Matthew.Kershner@FloridaDEP.gov>; Kennedy, Gracie <Gracie.Kennedy@dep.state.fl.us>
Subject: FW: FW: Putnam County Chemical Fire

Mike,
Do you have any info responsive to Greg's ask?
Jim

From: Strong, Greg
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 9:51 AM
To: Fellabaum, Pamela <Pamela.Fellabaum@dep.state.fl.us>
Cc: Maher, Jim <Jim.Maher@dep.state.fl.us>
Subject: RE: FW: Putnam County Chemical Fire

So, what specific chemicals were involved in the fire?

From: Fellabaum, Pamela
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2018 8:09 AM
To: Strong, Greg <Greg.Strong@dep.state.fl.us>; Maher, Jim <Jim.Maher@dep.state.fl.us>; Holmes, Michael P <Michael.P.Holmes@FloridaDEP.gov>; Kennedy, Gracie <Gracie.Kennedy@dep.state.fl.us>
Cc: Mitchell, Cheryl L <Cheryl.L.Mitchell@FloridaDEP.gov>
Subject: FW: FW: Putnam County Chemical Fire

FYI

From: Montco Research Products, Inc. <montcoresearchproducts@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 2:00 PM

To: Fellabaum, Pamela <Pamela.Fellabaum@FloridaDEP.gov>

Subject: Re: FW: Putnam County Chemical Fire

Hey Pam,

Thanks for your call earlier. We have always enjoyed working with you.

I'm sure this doesn't matter at all, but I have to say something about the email that you sent to me from Mr. Holmes. I do NOT know who he was getting information from, but here are some corrections.

First of all, I just went and inspected the nitrogen cylinder. It is completely intact. No sign of any "explosion". Secondly, if the nitrogen cylinder did explode, it wouldn't spread the fire, it would have helped put it out.

Mr. Holmes said that only 2 tanks were compromised??? I may not know what compromised means, but there is no damage or problems with any of our tanks. I really don't know what he is talking about there.

Next, the "multiple chemicals in the building" is not correct. We do NOT have Sodium Hydroxide, Hydrochloride Acid, or Chloroform in that building. We do NOT have Chlorine, Methanol, Formaldehyde, or Trichloromethane at our plant site.

I don't know why, but it just bugs me when people write things as facts that aren't correct when it is very easy to find out what the facts are.

sorry...had to vent.

Terry Clayton

P.S. I will send you what I wrote as soon as I finish it.

On Mon, Jun 4, 2018 at 11:51 AM, Fellabaum, Pamela <Pamela.Fellabaum@floridadep.gov> wrote:

FYI

From: Holmes, Michael P

Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 9:51 AM

To: Maher, Jim <Jim.Maher@dep.state.fl.us>; Strong, Greg <Greg.Strong@dep.state.fl.us>; Kershner, Matthew <Matthew.Kershner@FloridaDEP.gov>; Simpson, Russell <Russell.Simpson@dep.state.fl.us>; Johnson, John S. <John.S.Johnson@dep.state.fl.us>; Roff, Nick <Nick.Roff@dep.state.fl.us>

Cc: Fellabaum, Pamela <Pamela.Fellabaum@FloridaDEP.gov>; Kennedy, Gracie <Gracie.Kennedy@dep.state.fl.us>; Carr, Kevin M <Kevin.M.Carr@FloridaDEP.gov>; Lewis, Luke <Luke.S.Lewis@dep.state.fl.us>; Chris Russell <russell.chris@EPA.gov>; Webber, Heather

<Heather.Webber@FloridaDEP.gov>

Subject: Putnam County Chemical Fire

Hello all,

Below is a summary of the events that occurred on Saturday at the Montco Chemical Research Facility.

At 1605 EST Michael Holmes with Office of Emergency Response (OER) arrived On scene and met with incident command.

After initial assessment and discussion it was determined that an unknown source started a fire that quickly spread throughout the facility. The fire reached and compromised a Nitrogen tank, causing the tank to explode, further spreading the fire.

It was originally thought multiple tanks holding multiple chemicals had been compromised and released. After further investigation by fire teams in the hot zone, it was determined that only two tanks were compromised and one 55 gallon drum had spilled it's contents. The Responsible Party claimed the tanks held water, but a strong odor of possible Napthalene was detected in the air and the first team in the hot zone detected VOCs on their gas meter.

Multiple chemicals were inside the building to include Sodium Hydroxide, Hydrochloric Acid, Chlorine, Napthalene, Methanol, Ethyl Benzene, Chloroform, Formaldehyde, and Trichloromethane. However, it was determined that only the Napthalene had released from one 55 gallon drum.

After the fire was extinguished and smoldering was under control, a hazmat team was sent in to collect samples of the wastewater around the compromised tanks. Two samples were collected from areas near both tanks and the leaked drum. Both samples returned as negative for product and positive for water.

The Responsible party hired Alpha Omega as the cleanup contractor. Further sampling of the water and soil nearby was requested. The secondary containment had partially failed and the wastewater had impacted nearby soil.

There were no fatalities. However, 6 firefighters were taken to the hospital. Two firefighters suffered from heat exhaustion and four firefighters described symptoms of itching and slight burning on exposed skin. It is unclear if these symptoms are directly related to spilled product since the roof and containers were made of fiberglass and were on fire throughout the incident. All firefighters were released later in the day.

An inspection of the area afterward showed thriving animal life in a nearby creek with no sheening or odors detected. A strong odor could be smelled inside the facility but the RP states that is normal because they mix the chemicals inside the facility to create their end product. However,

sampling will still be conducted once the facility infrastructure is deemed safe by the fire marshal. The facility creates chemicals used in the pharmaceutical industry.

The scene was secured and cleared at 2045 EST. Residents of the evacuated area were allowed to return at 2018 EST. The state fire marshal has determined that arson is not a factor and electrical wiring in the ceiling could possibly have been the source. Two employees were running the facility over the weekend.

The agencies involved in the response include Putnam County Fire and EMS, Clay County Fire and Hazmat, Putnam County Sheriffs Office, Putnam County Emergency Management, Florida Office of the State Fire Marshal, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

If you have any further questions please let me know.

Thanks,

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[Office: 904-256-1683](#)
Cell: 904-237-6276

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



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Montco Research

Preplan of Chemical Hazards

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Chemical	HMIQ	NIOSH
1-Chloromethyl Naphthalene	R1	
Ethyl Benzyl Chloride	R15	
Zinc Chloride	B1	
Napthalene	R3	Pg. 133
Ethyl Benzene	R3	Pg.
Paraformaldehyde	R1/R7	Pg. 167
Hydrochloric Acid	R0	Pg. 284
Sodium Hydroxide	B10/B9	Pg. 65
Trichloromethane	R0 R1	Pg. 65
Chloroform	R1	Pg. 270
Propylene Oxide	R11	Pg. 270
1,2-Epoxy Propane	R11	



